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Aside from these unfortunate ventures, speculative regions, and a certain tendency to looseness of statement, which is, however, in most cases annoying rather than misleading, we find much to commend in the book. It presents the most complete and connected discussion of photochemical theories with which we are acquainted, is in the main accurate in its statements of experimental facts and the explanations which have been proposed for them, and thus forms an important and valuable contribution to the literature of the subject. It is rich in suggestion to the chemist, and will undoubtedly fulfil the author's hope of attracting new workers to this field for experimental inquiry.

Evolution. Popular Lectures and Discussions before the Brooklyn Ethical Association. Boston, James H. West. 12°. $2.

THIS book consists of fifteen different papers, originally prepared for a popular audience, but designed to present the evolution theory in a thorough and scientific manner. They are by many different authors, and deal with all the leading aspects of the subject. The two opening papers treat of the life and work of the two chief expounders of the new doctrine, Darwin and Spencer; then follow others on the evolution of the earth and the solar system; then the biological department is dealt with; while a considerable portion of the book is devoted to the evolution of morals, religion, and society. The essays, or lectures, are in the main well adapted to the special object in view, that of making evolutionary doctrines better known to popular audiences and general readers; for the writers seem to have taken pains to make their subject plain, and to have had good success in doing so. Each lecture, as originally delivered, was followed by a discussion, in which views opposed to those of the lecturer, and even to the evolution theory generally, were sometimes expressed, and which seem to have been of considerable interest; but the report of them in this volume is rather too brief to give an adequate idea of them.

The views expressed in the various lectures are, of course, in the main those of Darwin and Spencer; but we notice, nevertheless, a decided disagreement with those thinkers on certain points. Thus Professor Raymond regards the theory of natural selection as inadequate to account for the derivation of species, and intimates that "Darwin's formula left out more important factors than any of those it contained;" and Professor Cope expressed a similar opinion. Again, Mr. Chadwick, speaking of Spencer's proposed reconciliation of science and religion, says that he "cannot conceive a more senseless and ridiculous reconciliation than this;" and he elsewhere speaks of it as "the disreputable compromise between science and religion." We notice, as the most prominent fact in the series of discussions, that when the subject of religion was introduced, a great divergence of opinion was immediately manifest; one, at least, of the speakers expressing the extremest materialistic views, while the views of others were strongly spiritualistic, and of others still pantheistic. Indeed, it looks very much as if the evolution school was likely to divide, as the Hegelian school did after its founder's death, into three distinct branches, — one theistic, another pantheistic, and the third atheistic. However, we have no desire to set up as prophets; and so we close by recommending this collection of essays to those who wish for a simple but accurate exposition of the evolutionary philosophy.

An Appeal to Pharaoh. The Negro Problem and its Radical Solution. New York, Fords, Howard, & Hulbert. 16°. $1.

THE anonymous author of this work is very much troubled about the negro problem, and he here devotes two hundred pages to a proposed solution of it. He dwells at great length on the fact that the black and the white races in this country show no sign of intermingling even socially, and paints in extraordinary colors the antipathy that exists between them. He maintains that in the Southern States the two races are farther apart in feeling, and less disposed to social intercourse with each other, than they were when slavery prevailed; and he fears that this estrangement will increase with the progress of time. In the North, too, he asserts that the separation of the two races is scarcely less marked; and for this race antipathy there is, in his opinion, no cure. Moreover, he predicts that all sorts of evils will result from this antipathy in the future; that race conflicts of one kind or another will continually arise; and that there will never be harmony between the North and South till the negro is got rid of. And so he proposes to send the whole body of seven million blacks back to Africa, whether they will or no. A colony is to be planted on the Kongo or somewhere else, and the negroes are to be transported thither, the United States paying for their passage, and also furnishing them a little money with which to begin their new life. The author fears that his scheme will be pronounced impracticable, and devotes a great deal of space to showing how it could be put into execution. To our mind, however, the scheme is not so much impracticable as inhuman; though its inhumanity is perhaps exceeded by its silliness. If the negroes should choose to emigrate, there is no objection to their doing so; but this proposal to compel them to go is one to which the American people will not listen. The negro is here to stay, and men like the author of this book must make up their minds to treat him with justice and fairness; and when they do so, all danger of trouble between the two races will disappear.

The Psychology of Attention. By Th. RIBOT. Chicago, Open Court Publ. Co. 12°. 75 cents.

THIS work is an authorized translation from the French, and originally appeared in the pages of the *Open Court*. It might better have been entitled the "physiology" of attention, for it treats almost entirely of the motions and other physical phenomena that accompany attention, and has very little to say about attention itself. The author defines attention as "an intellectual state, exclusive or predominant, with spontaneous or artificial adaptation of the individual;" yet when he comes to treat the subject he neglects the intellectual state entirely, and confines himself to its physical and emotional accompaniments. The thesis that he attempts to prove is that every species of attention is invariably accompanied by certain motor changes in the bodily frame, and that these are so essential to attention that they may almost be said to constitute it. In other words, after defining attention as an intellectual state, M. Ribot treats it as if it was a bodily state. Moreover, he fails to show that attention is always accompanied by motions or motor phenomena. Of course, in the case of sense-perception the motor element in attention is apparent; but in the case of abstract thought it is not at all apparent to the ordinary consciousness, and M. Ribot does not make it any more so. Nevertheless there is much in his book that will be interesting, especially to students of psychophysics. The work is divided into three parts, treating successively of spontaneous, voluntary, and morbid attention; and under all these heads are presented facts and ideas that will serve towards a more perfect theory of attention hereafter.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE supplement to *Harper's Weekly* of Jan. 18 contains an interesting article on recent discoveries in the Kongo basin, detailing "the geographical surprises and new-found peoples of the past five years." The article is from the pen of C. C. Adams, and is illustrated by a large map and several other engravings.

— The picturesque forest pavilion at the Paris Exposition is illustrated and described in *Garden and Forest* for Jan. 15, where we find, as well, an account of the delightful voyage down the Rhone, so seldom made by tourists, and a picture of a positively unique orchid, *Phalænopsis F. L. Ames.*

— The closing volume of C. A. Fyffe's "History of Modern Europe" is now in the hands of Cassell & Co. The volume embraces the period from 1848 to 1878, and throws, we understand, considerable light on the complex problems in European politics which led to the Franco-Prussian war.

— More than twelve thousand letters and manuscripts of John Ericsson, the great engineer, have been put in the hands of Col. W. C. Church, to use in the preparation of his biography. The first of two articles on Ericsson, by Col. Church, will appear in the February *Scribner's*, with some illustrations from rare sources, among them the reproduction of an engraving made by Ericsson at the age of eighteen. G. Frederick Wright, president of Oberlin College, will have a short article on the curious and very ancient image thrown up not long ago by an artesian well at Nampa, Idaho.